

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 112875  
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 INR-07 NSC-05  
USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY PA:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC  
APPROVED BY PA/M:CFREEMAN  
S/S-O:LMACFARLANE  
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION  
PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----172015Z 045930 /73

O 171938Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 112875

FOR CARTER--SECRETARY'S PARTY--FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT HENRY TANNER COLUMN NEW YORK TIMES  
TUESDAY MAY 17 HEADED "CARTER AND VANCE IMPRESS ARABS AS  
'SOLID,' SERIOUS AND RELIABLE."

2. CAIRO--PRESIDENT CARTER, VENTURING FOR THE FIRST TIME  
INTO THE TANGLED WEB OF MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY, HAS COME  
ACROSS TO ARAB OFFICIALS AS A MAN WHO IS GENUINELY TRYING  
TO BRING ABOUT A PERMANENT OVERALL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN  
ISRAEL AND THE ARABS.

3. MR. CARTER'S MEETING LAST WEEK WITH PRESIDENT HAFEZ  
AL-ASSAD OF SYRIA IMPROVED THE ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIATION.  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 112875

BUT, TYPICALLY, THE DAMASCUS REGIME CONTINUES TO SAY IN  
ITS NEWSPAPERS THAT IT HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE CHANCES  
FOR EASY OR RAPID PROGRESS.

4. PSYCHOLOGICALLY, THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO MEN WAS A  
MILESTONE BECAUSE IT REMOVED FROM MR. ASSAD'S MIND FOR THE  
FIRST TIME "THE IMAGE OF THE UGLY AMERICAN WHICH CLUNG TO

KISSINGER IN SPITE OF HIS SUCCESSES," AN ARAB DIPLOMAT SAID.

5. THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE SYRIANS, MUCH MORE THAN THE EGYPTIANS, SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS, HAVE BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF AMERICAN INTENTIONS.

6. MR. KISSINGER FASCINATED THE ARAB LEADERS HE MET. THEY ADMIRER HIS ENERGY, HIS SHOWMANSHIP, HIS NIMBLE MIND AND EVEN HIS JOKES. BUT, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF PRESIDENT ANWAR AL-SADAT OF EGYPT, THEY NEVER FULLY TRUSTED HIM.

7. BY CONTRAST, MR. CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE ARE SEEN AS "SOLID MEN," SLOWER BUT MORE SERIOUS AND RELIABLE, IN THE WORDS OF AN ARAB OFFICIAL.

8. THE SYRIAN STATE RADIO THE OTHER DAY LISTED THREE "POSITIVE CHANGES" IN BASIC AMERICAN POLICY.

9. IT NOTED THAT MR. CARTER HAD COME OUT FOR A PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND."

10. IT WELCOMED MR. CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO THE SEARCH FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT AS DISTINCT FROM THE PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS THAT MR. KISSINGER BROUGHT ABOUT AND THAT SYRIA AND MANY OTHER ARABS HAD OPPOSED AS DIVIDING THE ARAB WORLD.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 112875

11. THE RADIO ALSO SAID THAT MR. CARTER WAS APPARENTLY TRYING TO BE MORE "EVEN-HANDED" IN DEALING WITH ISRAEL AND THE ARABS.

12. THIS IS AN OLD PHRASE AND IT HAS MANY VAGUE MEANINGS. WHAT ARTICULATE ARAB ANALYSTS MEAN BY IT, AT THIS STAGE, IS THAT IN THEIR VIEW THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS BEGUN TO WEIGH EACH ISRAELI REQUEST FOR ARMS AND FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT, NO LONGER GRANTING THEM ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY.

13. IN A TYPICAL REMARK, AN ARAB JOURNALIST SAID: "WE KNOW THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL IS UNBREAKABLE. WE WILL NEVER HAVE A SIMILAR RELATIONSHIP. WHAT HURT US IN THE PAST WAS THAT AMERICAN POLITICIANS ALWAYS ENDORSED THE ISRAELI VIEW, REGARDLESS OF ITS MERIT, AND OFTEN WITHOUT LOOKING AT IT. ALL WE ASK IS THAT ARAB AND ISRAELI CLAIMS BOTH BE STUDIED BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE."

14. ANOTHER ARAB INTELLECTUAL RECENTLY EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT AMERICANS WERE MOVING AWAY FROM THE POSITION THAT ISRAEL'S NATIONAL INTEREST, AS DEFINED BY ISRAELI

POLITICIANS, WAS NECESSARILY THE SAME AS THE AMERICAN NATIONAL INTEREST. "WE DON'T WANT LOVE, BUT GIVE US GOOD ANALYSIS," HE SAID.

15. ARAB OFFICIALS HOPE THAT LATER THIS YEAR MR. CARTER WILL COME FORWARD WITH HIS OWN PLAN FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, SOMETHING THAT RECENT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE AVOIDED.

16. THE OUTLINE OF THE AMERICAN PLAN, THESE OFFICIALS SAY, HAS EMERGED DURING THE RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN MR. CARTER AND ARAB LEADERS. THEY CITE THE FOLLOWING MAIN ELEMENTS:  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 112875

RECOGNITION BY THE PALESTINIANS AND OTHER ARABS OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE, THE PROTECTION OF ISRAEL AGAINST ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS AND THE PROTECTION OF THE NEIGHBORS AGAINST ISRAEL BY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS DEMILITARIZED ZONES, INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES AND ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE. OTHER FACTORS INCLUDE THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND" AND WITHDRAWAL BY ISRAEL FROM THE TERRITORIES IT CONQUERED IN 1967.

17. IN PRINCIPLE, THESE POINTS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO ALMOST ALL ARAB GOVERNMENTS. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, THEIR MEANING HAS TO BE DEFINED IN NEGOTIATIONS AND WIDE, PERHAPS UNBRIDGABLE, GAPS BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND ARAB POSITIONS MAY THEN EMERGE.

18. MR. CARTER APPEARS TO HAVE WON AN ARAB ENDORSEMENT OF THE IDEA OF DEMILITARIZED ZONES. THIS, IT IS BELIEVED HERE, IS ONE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CARTER-ASSAD MEETING. BUT WHAT IT MEANS IN PRACTICAL TERMS FOR THE GOLAN HEIGHTS REGION NOW OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL IS NOT KNOWN.

19. THE RECOGNITION ISSUE IS EVEN MORE COMPLICATED. THE LEADING ARAB GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING SYRIA'S, HAVE RECOGNIZED ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST BY ACCEPTING RESOLUTION 242 OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL OF NOVEMBER 1967. SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESOLUTION CAME ONLY AFTER THE WAR OF 1973. LIBYA AND IRAQ, AND PERHAPS SOUTHERN YEMEN, ARE THE ONLY HOLDOUTS. (END TEXT.) CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE112875  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JCHAMBERLAIN:JC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770175-0486  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770547/aaaabovc.tel  
**Line Count:** 168  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 30206e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN PA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2482502  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS MATERIAL  
**TAGS:** SOPN, OVIP, IS, NEW YORK TIMES, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (CARTER, JIMMY), (TANNER, HENRY)  
**To:** GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/30206e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009